

December) on several occasions subsequently, but have not come across another instance. At Bharatpur this appears to be an annual and regular state of affairs well known to the local people.

BOMBAY,

HUMAYUN ABDULALI.

September 15, 1943.

[On p. 365, Vol. xxiii of the Journal Capt. Logan Home recorded a female Shoveller shot at Nowshera, N.W.F.P., with wing quills in moult and unable to fly.—Eds.]

XII.—DUCKS OF KAIRA DISTRICT.

We have been shooting ducks fairly regularly in Kaira district for some thirteen years and have kept notes on our bags. This list of ducks for our locality may be of some interest inasmuch as no previous list has been published for this district.

The waters of this district suitable for ducks consist of several large artificial irrigation tanks. The quantity of water in these tanks is dependent on the annual rainfall, and in some seasons the water is very low. Most of these tanks, even the largest are dry, or practically so for a few months before the rains break. (This is of interest as it would indicate that the ducks indigenous to India, and listed here as occurring in our district must be, at least in part, local migrants; coming into the district to breed, after the monsoon breaks.). Following a good heavy monsoon the duck shooting is excellent; after a light monsoon, the reverse is true. The first of the migrants to arrive are the blue-winged teal, and these in large numbers, sometime in the second week of October. They and the common teal are the last to leave about the middle of March. The average bag consists of blue-winged teal, common teal, and white-eyed pochard in larger numbers; and a fair number of pintail and gadwall.

The following is our list of ducks recorded in Kaira District:—

Nukhta or Comb-Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotus* Pennant) Fairly common, as long as the tanks are well filled. They disappear later in the season.

Cotton-Teal (*Nettapus coromandelianus* Gmelin)—Rare. Only three recorded; a drake and two ducks shot at Pariaj, Dec. 12, 1942. (The party consisted of eight guns, and the total bag was 121 ducks.).

Grey Lag Goose (*Anser anser* Linn.)—Rare. A flock of six seen at Pariaj, Dec. 30, 1931. Two shot by D.S.P., Kaira, on Jan. 15, 1932, at Pariaj. Three shot at Chitersumba, Dec. 24, 1939.

Lesser Whistling Teal (*Dendrocygna javanica* Horsf.)—Common early in the season as long as tanks are well filled.

Brahminy Duck (*Casarca ferruginea* Pallas)—Not rare. A few to be found along Mahi and Sabarmati rivers and occasionally around the larger tanks.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhyncha* Linn.)—Rare. Only an occasional straggler seen in the district; while they seem to be a bit more

common just north of our district in the neighbourhood of Ahmedabad. (Saw a duck and a drake in a large mixed flock of duck on a tank near Ahmedabad, March 20, 1940). Saw a drake and two ducks at Pariaj, Nov. 29, 1941. One duck shot at Gobhlaj, Dec. 24, 1942.

Spotbill (*Anas poecilorhyncha* Forster)—Fairly common. A few to be seen at any time as long as tanks are well filled.

Gadwall (*Chaulelasmus streperus* Linn.)—Common.

Wigeon (*Mareca penelope* Linn.)—Rather rare. A few are seen and shot each season, but never in any numbers.

Common Teal (*Nettion crecca* Linn.)—Common; however, not as plentiful as blue-winged teal.

Pintail (*Dafila acuta* Linn.)—Common. Difficult to shoot as they are the first to rise to a great height and move off to other waters.

Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula querquedula* Linn.)—Very common—perhaps the most plentiful in the district, with the white-eyed pochard a close second in numbers.

Shoveller (*Spatula clypeata* Linn.)—Common.

Red Crested Pochard (*Netta rufina* Pallas)—Rather rare. Only seen in small numbers in some seasons.

Pochard (*Nyroca ferina* Linn.)—Common.

White-eyed Pochard (*Nyroca rufa* Linn.)—Very common.

NADIAD,

HERSCHEL C. ALDRICH, M.D.

KAIRA DISTRICT,

September 20, 1943.

XIII.—THE ARABIAN LARGE-CRESTED SEA TERN (*STERNA BERGII VELOX*) BREEDING OFF THE SIND COAST.

Hitherto the nearest known breeding ground of this magnificent tern has been recorded as Astola, an island off the Mekran coast near Ormara.

For the past three years, if not longer, fairly large colonies of the Arabian Large Crested Sea Tern have been breeding on suitable islands off the Sind coast at the mouth of the Kajhar creek, which lies about 10 miles, as the crow flies, west of the Seer Creek, separating Sind from Kutch.

In May 1934 while looking for favourable flamingo breeding ground I came across numbers of this tern 'packing', a sure sign of breeding, on sand banks near Kajhar creek but it was not till June 1941 that I was able to send out a trusted man, who returned with several very 'high' birds and about a dozen fresh eggs, all that were unbroken out of a basket which contained about 60 eggs. The following year I secured about a score of eggs which were taken on the 14th June and this year I received 64 eggs taken on the 20th June. The man reported that hundreds of birds were breeding and that many eggs were taken yearly for food by *mohanas* from Kutch.